

## The book of Jonah: Chapter 4

Read chapter 4

What is the main point of chapter 4?

### Verse 1

- How did Jonah feel about God having relented from destroying the Ninevites?
- Why do you think he felt that it was wrong?
- Who was he angry at? Was it merely the situation that he was angry at?
- Was he justified in being angry?
- Do you get angry when you feel that God has been merciful when you think he should have judged?

### Verse 2

- What did Jonah do next?
- Had his attitude changed from before God sent him the first time?
- What was the reason that he ran to Tarshish at first?
- What did Jonah know about God?
- Was it true? Did he have an accurate perception of God?
- Then what was the problem?
- Do we sometimes know who God is and what he expects, but still run from that truth in our practical lives?

### Verse 3

- What did Jonah ask God to do?
- Why do you think he asked him to do this?
- Do you think he was feeling like this because of his own hopes having been shattered, or was he thinking beyond himself? Possibly about the nation of Israel?
- Have you ever had your hopes shattered and felt like Jonah?
- Have you ever felt like Jonah when others have been denied justice and the perpetrators shown mercy?

### Verse 4

- What did God ask Jonah?
- Was it a valid question?
- Was Jonah right to be angry?
- Is anger always a sin?
- Read Ephesians 4: 26
- When is it right to be angry?
- Have you ever been angry?
- Was your anger justified?
- Has anger ever caused you to sin?

### Verse 5

- What did Jonah do?
- Why did he make a shelter?
- Why did he make his shelter on the east side of the city?
- Did he really believe that God had relented from destroying Nineveh?
- What do you think that he was hoping to see happen?
- Have we ever denied facts in our life that haven't been in our favour in the hope that things would still work out differently?
- Is it right to keep on hoping even though God had done the opposite of what we had hoped for?

**Verse 6**

- Why was Jonah in discomfort?
- What did God do to ease his discomfort?
- Was Jonah happy with what God had done?
- Did Jonah need to be comforted?
- Did he deserve God's comfort?
- Why did God comfort him?
- Has God ever comforted you in your distress, even when your own attitudes brought the distress on yourself?

**Verse 7 – 8**

- What did God do in verse 7?
- Why do you think that he did that?
- What did God do in verse 8?
- What happened to Jonah?
- How did Jonah feel emotionally?
- Was God being revengeful or spiteful towards Jonah by doing this?
- Have we ever been angry then more things start going wrong in our life?
- What was our response?

**Verse 9**

- What did God ask Jonah?
- What was Jonah's response?
- Do you think that it's right to be so honest with God?
- Have you ever been that honest with God?

**Verse 10**

- Had Jonah planted the plant and made it grow?
- Who had planted it?
- Who had made it die overnight?
- Do we have a right to be angry over circumstances that are beyond our control?
- Who is in control even when we aren't?
- Does God allow bad things to happen to us?
- Does God make bad things happen to us?

**Verse 11**

- What was God's main concern? (V.11)
- What did he say about the people of Nineveh?
- What does that say about the character of God?
- Does God want us to have that character towards sinful people?
- Did Jonah have it?
- Are there any people or groups of people that you need to be showing more mercy towards?
- Read James 2: 12 – 13